

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 181050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES BUDGET

REF: ANKARA 1265

1. THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT SURVIVED ANOTHER PARLIAMENTARY TEST WHEN ITS OVERALL BUDGET WAS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 18 BY A VOTE OF 229-208. THE LINE ITEM BUDGET WILL NOW BE DEBATED AND THE VOTE ON THE COMPLETED BUDGET WILL PROBABLY BE ON FEBRUARY 29.

2. THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) WAS ABLE TO SWITCH THE VOTE OF ONLY ONE INDEPENDENT (MEHMET ALI ARSAN) FROM SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT; AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SIX DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) DEPUTIES ABSTAINED INSTEAD OF VOTING WITH THE OPPOSITION. WITH THIS OUTCOME IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE RPP HAS LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING IN ITS EFFORT TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT BY DEFEATING THE BUDGET.

3. PRECEDING THE VOTE, PRIMIN DEMIREL SPOKE FOR ALMOST SEVEN HOURSE IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO A REBUTTAL OF RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT'S
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ACCUSATIONS OF THE PRECEDING DAY (REFTEL). DEMIREL NOTED THAT

"OF COURSE, WE COULD ENGAGE IN A 'CUSSING CONTEST'," BUT IT
WOULD "WEAR DOWN" THE PARLIAMENT. HE ASKED, "HOW CAN
WE PREVENT IT ELSEWHERE IF WE FIGHT IN PARLIAMENT?" DEMIREL
STATED THAT NO FRAUD WAS INVOLVED IN CHANGES MADE IN THE
1976 PROGRAM. HE SAID THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD MADE
"NECESSARY CHANGES" TO CORRECT THE PAPERS PREPARED BY THE
STATE PLANNING OFFICE SINCE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BORE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS. DEMIREL,
RESPONDING TO RPP CHARGES CONCERNING TAX REBATES GIVEN TO
HIS NEPHEW, NOTED THAT, "YOU WERE THE GOVERNMENT THEN, WHY
DIDN'T YOU GRAB ME BY THE NECK?"
NYREN

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